



The Review

NBIMC News, Updates, & Announcements

March 2026

Ms. Stephanie Kaham-Ward Achieves 15 Years of Civilian Service

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CAPT M. J. Sklar, NBIMC OIC (Left) and Ms. Stephanie Kaham-Ward, Program Analyst (Right)

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On February 25th, 2026, Ms. Stephanie Kaham-Ward was awarded with a certificate for achieving 15 years of civilian service for the United States government. Ms. Kaham-Ward works as a Program Analyst at NBIMC, performing various tasks daily contributing to NBIMC's mission, vision and values. Ms. Kaham-Ward is largely involved with NBIMC's HIV Management Service (HMS) database and works continuously with the Naval Information Warfare Center (NIWC) Atlantic team to develop strategic plans and solutions to ensure the force testing sector of NBIMC is successfully operating. NBIMC is very grateful for all contributions Ms. Kaham-Ward has made and continues to give each day.

Reminder: Inclement Weather Info

INCLEMENT WEATHER MESSAGE FOR ALL SUBMITTING LABORATORIES



Potential delays are possible for package deliveries due to inclement weather. Please be sure to keep track of your packages and monitor weather conditions when shipping specimens.

The [*FEDEX Service Alerts page*](#) is helpful for updated information regarding possible delays or service disruption.

AVOID THESE LABELING AND SAMPLE PROCESSING ERRORS

CDD has recently reported receiving samples with incorrectly placed labels. Incorrect labeling results in sampling errors, redraws and increased time of specimen testing and processing. Follow the tips below to ensure all your samples are labeled correctly. Following these tips will create efficient, timely sample processing.

Specimen Labeling & Processing Tips:

- **Place labels up and down along the length of the tube.**
 - Correctly placed labels ensure processors can read all information and scan them properly.

- **DO NOT wrap labels around the tube.**

- **DO NOT place tape on the caps and/or on the tubes themselves.**
 - Tape is not necessary
 - Tape extends the removal process time

Specimen Labeling

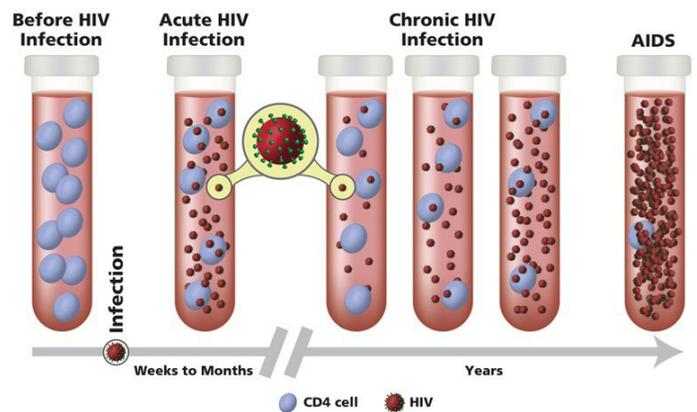
The primary objective of proper specimen labeling and identification is to make certain that the specimen is linked to the correct patient. Accurate patient identification is essential for providing the right result to the right patient at the right time. For laboratory testing, this involves accurately labeling patient samples with essential information, such as the patient's name, date of birth, and the date and time of collection. When loading orders for an individual with a suffix (JR, III, IV....) make sure to place the suffix on the tube, the name on the order transmitted must match the name on the specimen tube. This will help prevent more rejections.



Image Info VIRIN: 200528-Z-GT365-006

Improper labeling can lead to several issues, such as misdiagnosis and incorrect treatment plans, which may put the patient at risk and compromise their overall safety. Proper labeling also allows healthcare professionals to easily trace results back to the corresponding patient. Accurate patient identification plays an essential role in preventing patient errors, which may have severe consequences in healthcare and further delay essential treatments.

Summary of HIV Progression



The human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) weakens the immune system by destroying important cells that fight disease and infection. There is currently no effective cure for HIV, but with proper medical care, HIV can be controlled. Some populations in the United States are more likely to get HIV than others because of many factors, including their sex partners and risk behaviors. Periodic HIV testing aids in the early detection of infection and allows for timely, opportune treatment. HIV infections can

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progress overtime and are categorized into one of three stages based on various factors such as risk of transmission and viral loads. Basic information on the three stages of HIV infection is provided below.

3 Stages of HIV Infection:

1) Acute HIV Infection – the early stage, develops 2-4 weeks after infection, characterized by high levels of HIV and multiplies rapidly. An infected individual may develop symptoms to include influenza-like illness. The risk of transmission is highest at this stage.

2) Chronic HIV Infection – Clinical HIV infection; HIV multiplies at low levels, may be asymptomatic, and risk of transmission depends on treatment and viral loads.

3) Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) – Severe stage of infection, susceptible to opportunistic infections, high viral load, and easily transmit to others.

Written By: Hodan Oglay, MS

Action Required: Respond to Deficiency Emails & Keep Your POC Info Updated

To ensure efficient and accurate specimen processing, all site POCs must:

- 1. Review and respond to deficiency emails received as necessary.** If any POCs have questions or need further information or clarification regarding deficiency codes, definitions, and action steps to correct rejections, please email CDD_Military@labcorp.com and dha.bethesda.Walter-Reed-Med-Ctr.mbx.nbimc@health.mil.

- Please refer to all specimen submission guidelines (attached in deficiency emails) and include your site's UIC number(s) in all email

correspondence to help NBIMC and CDD address any issues.

ICE (Interactive Customer Evaluation) To provide feedback or suggestions on NBIMC's service, please use this link: <https://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=card&sp=151849>

Can you clarify HIV test ordering for the following scenarios?

a. Standard Duty Screening: Is the correct order "HIV-1/2 AG/AB 4G CDD"?

Yes, the HIV-1/2 AG/AB 4G CDD test is sufficient for all military branches.

b. PrEP 3-Month Checkup: Which order should be used for service members on PrEP?

For members on PrEP, they should receive the usual force testing HIV test (acceptable test names below), however, on the order, under Source of Test(SOT), the provider should choose G. SOT G is the source of test used for all members on PrEP to ensure the sample is additionally tested for PCR.

c. Other Scenarios: Are there other situations requiring a different HIV test order?

There are no circumstances in which the test names provided in the image below should not be used. All tests below meet force testing requirements, other test names do not and therefore will not be accepted.

Orderable Item Description	Synonym Primary
• HIV-1/O/2 (AF FT EPI)	HIV-1/O/2
• HIV-1/O/2 CDD (Army/Navy FT)	HIV-1/O/2 CDD
• HIV-1/2 AG/AB 4G CDD	HIV-1/2 AG/AB 4G CDD